guidelines for a new initiative to combat drug trafficking and abuse. A Cabinet sub-Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister, has been constituted to oversee and co-ordinate the working of different ministries and take steps to intensify the fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

The Action Plan *inter alia*, includes:

(i) vigorously enforcing the legislative provisions and strengthening of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, wherever necessary;

(ii) expeditious destruction of seized/confiscated drugs;

(iii) strengthening of laboratory facilities;

(iv) undertaking a massive training programme for police and other drug law enforcement officers;

(v) strengthening of intelligence set up relating to drug interdiction;

(vi) survey/destruction of illicit poppy/cannabis plants;

(vii) setting up of Special Courts (based on workload) for expeditious trial of drug offenders;

(viii) tightening control at Bombay and Delhi airports being main transit and exist points;

(ix) distribution of drug identification kits; and

(x) to spread awareness about drug abuse.

In order to further strengthen the legislative framework, "The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance, 1988 (No. 7 of 1988)" has been promulgated on 4-7-1988. Under the Ordinance, as on 28-7-1988, 152 detention orders have been issued and 118 persons have been detained.

Loans to small scale and cottage industries in Bihar

2328. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of small scale and cottage industries in Bihar;

(b) what is the number of such industries which have been granted loans by the nationalised banks; and

(c) what are the details of such industries and the amount of loan granted to each industry alongwith the number of applications pending for the purpose of sanction of the loan with each of the nationalised bank as on 30th June, 1988 and by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the present data reporting system does not generate informaion from banks in the manner asked for. As per the latest data, collected on a quarterly basis, public sector banks had financed 98,458 borrowal accounts under SSI sector (Small Scale Industries including artisants, village and cottage industries) in Bihar as on the last Friday of December, 1986 and the amount outstanding in respect of these accounts was Rs. 239.48 crores.

Demands of craftsmen of Jammu and Kashmir

2329. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received Memoranda dated 26th November, 1986 and 25th June, 1988 from All India Handicrafts Workers Union, Jammu and Kashmir regarding the grivances of departmental craftsmen working in centres in Jammu and Kashmir in the Carpet Weaving Training Scheme;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to settle their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Their main demands are regularisation of the services of craftsmen and enhancement of their wages.

(c) The matter is sub-judice.

Review of rejected cases of freedom fighters pension

2330. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to review the rejected cases of freedom fighters 'pension;

(b) if so, whether the decision covers those cases in which pension was earlier granted but was discontinued subsequently; and

(c) whether it is a fact that even after recommendations by the State Governments concerned after due verification, cases of freedom fighters' pension are being rejected by the Central Govenrment; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) A special drive was launched in July-August 1986 to dispose of cases of freedom fighters. Barring a few, all the cases have been disposed off. However, on receipt of applications from individuals, Organisations & State Governments cases are reviewed where even adequate grounds exist. Pension once sanctioned is discontinued only if it is found later that it was sanctioned on mistaken grounds/ false information.

(c) The recommendations of the State Government are generally accepted except where on scrutiny it is found that these recommendations are not in accordance with the provisions of the Swantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980.

Decision on Scindia Steam Navigation Company

2331. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the future working plan of Scindia Steam Navigation Company which was taken over by Government Receiver and the Board appointed by them last year, is under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, whether a decision has since been taken in the matter and if not what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that vessels of this Company remain unutilised due to uncertainty of Company's future;

(d) what is the amount of loss Government are incurring due to non-utilisation of vessels of the Company; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that due to delay in taking a decision on company's future, many workers are without any work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Various options in respect of Scindia Steam Navigation Company have been considered by Government and a decision has been taken to run the company through its Board of Directors.

(c) to (e) Vessels belonging to the Scindia Steam Navigation Company had stopped plying because of arrests by creditors and also because of stranding without bunkers etc. The Company has been trying to settle with its creditors both abroad and within the country. It has also tried to rationalise its staff strength by providing a voluntary retirement scheme for its employees. With the settlement of these issues and the impovement in freight rates the company is expected to be able to ply its vessels again. Government has been assisting the company with short-term loans to enable it to meet its immediate requirements.